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Follow-up to First Asia Mountain Meeting

The Regional Conference on Sustainable Development of Fragile Mountain Areas of Asia (SUDEMAA) was organised in Kathmandu from December 13-16, 1994. Following three days of extensive discussions on a wide range of mountain development issues, including country statements about respective mountain areas, the participants adopted the SUDEMAA Call to Action, calling upon countries to place mountain areas higher on their respective sustainable development agendas. The conference brought together over 60 policy-makers and practitioners from New Zealand to Iran. One of the decisions of the meeting was for ICIMOD to facilitate information exchange about Asian mountain areas.

The Asia Pacific Mountain Network is a follow-up to this meeting and represents an informal forum for the exchange of information and sharing of knowledge affecting sustainable development of mountain areas in the Asia Pacific Region (see map on the back page) amongst agencies and personnel concerned or associated with such mountain areas. The network is coordinated by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu, through a special grant from the Swiss

Government.

Objectives

The network's main objective is to facilitate information exchange about sustainable development of mountain areas among professional, development workers, and policy-makers in Asian countries.

Activities

- Establish a network of individuals and agencies working for sustainable mountain development
- Establish different focal points for different subregions of Asia
- Publish the Asia Pacific Mountain Network Bulletin

Proposed Focal Points

The Mountain Region of the Asia Pacific has been divided into a number of subregions for the purpose of Networking. The subregions are: North Central Asia, West Asia, the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, South East Asia, North East Asia and Australasia/Pacific. Each of the subregional focal points are being identified to initiate subregional activities and establish linkages.

FOLLOW UP TO UNCED AGENDA 21, CHAPTER 13

FAO, as the Task Manager for Agenda 21, Chapter 13, has organised the following meetings

- "Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development".
- The first ad hoc Inter-Agency Meeting was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, 21-22 March 1994.
- The Second ad hoc Inter-Agency Meeting was held in Lima, Peru, in February 1995 in conjunction with the International INGO/NGO consultation on the Mountain Agenda.
- The Third ad hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on the Follow-up to Chapter 13 will be held in Aviemore, Scotland, 22 April 1996.
- The First Session of the European Inter-Governmental Consultation on Sustainable Mountain Development is also taking place in Aviemore, Scotland, 22-26 April, 1996.

(For further details write to Mr. El Hadji Sene, Chief, Forest Conservation, Research and Education Service, Forest Resources' Division (Tel 39 6 5225 5978, Fax 39 6 5225 - 5137, e-mail: elhadji.sene@fao.org).

Extracts from the CSD Intersessional Working Group Meeting on Mountains *

The Commission for sustainable development recognises that mountain ecosystems and environments are of crucial importance as rich and unique centres of biological and cultural diversity, water stores, and sources of minerals. Mountains cover at least one-fifth of the Earth's surface and are home to at least 10 per cent of the world's population, predominantly economically- poor people. Mountain ecosystems are complex, fragile, unique in geomorphology, and react sensitively to global climate change.

The Commission recognises that with increased accessibility into mountain areas, resource degradation and, in some cases, economic and political marginalisation of mountain communities have taken place. In order to reverse this trend and to combat the poverty of mountain people, strategies for mountain development must empower mountain communities to exercise greater control over local resource management and conservation and generate incomes in sustainable and equitable ways. In this context, the Commission recognises the central role of women in the sustainable use and management of resources; therefore the specific needs and constraints of women must be acknowledged and addressed.

The Commission recognises " the importance of mountains as the predominant source of freshwater currently used by humanity . . . the vital protective function of a stable forest cover for safeguard."

* *For further details see United Nations, 1995, Commission on Sustainable Development Report on the Third Session (11-28 April, 1995), Economic and Social Council, Official Records, 1995, Supplement No. 12, New York: United Nations, pp 45-47.*

MOUNTAIN WOMEN AND THE 1995 BEIJING CONFERENCE

Statement by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Kathmandu, Nepal

The women of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas number approximately 60 million and inhabit one of the most marginalised and remote terrains on earth, stretching from Afghanistan in the west to Myanmar in the east (including areas of eight countries). As members of largely subsistence-based agricultural societies, their livelihoods are increasingly threatened by environmental degradation and increasing demands for land, water, forest resources, and food supplies brought on by population growth, commercial interests, and development interventions. Urban centres and international markets are consuming more and more natural resources, require greater extraction from mountain areas, and therefore are increasing the potential to further exploit already marginalised mountain people. Women in these communities are doubly marginalised, due to social and religious traditions.

Women, who perform the majority of agricultural work in the region, are profoundly affected by these changes. Women's workloads, already consuming over 15 hours a day in many areas, are increasing significantly as the daily business of searching for water, fuelwood, and animal fodder becomes more difficult, leaving families no choice but to stop their girl children from attending school to perform the chores. Women's traditional skills are devalued as these remote communities become monetised and their men are required to undertake work on cash crops in addition to subsistence crops. As male members are migrating increasingly to urban areas, women are left to make important decisions, although they are mostly without education and basic literary skills and alienated from new technical knowledge and resources. Although they become *de facto* heads of households, they are still denied land ownership and access to credit and extension services, and they are left to manage their farms under worsening conditions with fewer and fewer resources.

Most development programmes related to women and their use of the environment are limited to two types: high investment projects that marginalise women and women-specific projects that are themselves marginalised. Strategies to assist women are peripheral, limited to income generation, and still do not fully recognise women's major skills and

contributions to agriculture.

The following recommendations are made to improve the status and condition of mountain women in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region.

- Formation and support for grassroots' women to collectively determine their needs and lobby governments for assistance
- Assistance for intermediate organisations to act as catalysts to mobilise, raise awareness, and organise rural women
- Investment in technologies that reduce the drudgery of women's work
- Reorientation of government policies and programmes to address rural women's needs for access to land, credit, extension in agriculture, and management of natural resources.

(ICIMOD has started looking at Gender and Mountain Development. The current focus is on promoting appropriate methodologies, indicators for gender-sensitive analysis, and understanding in order to promote better integration of gender concerns in integrated mountain development. APMN reserves this page for Mountain Women and you are all welcome to contribute.)

MOUNTAIN NEWS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

News from Altai

Announcing the International Conference on Sustainable Socio-ecological Development, entitled "Altai in the Network of Sustainable Mountain Development." The conference will have three workshops

1. Altai and Russia: Past, Present and Future (May 1996)
2. Sacred Mountains of Asia: World Heritage for Now and for the Future (Sept 20-30, 1996)
3. Strategies for Ecological Sustainable Development of the Altai Republic and of the Adjacent Mountain Countries (Sept 20-30, 1996)

(Contact address: Ye. F. Veldiaev, State Assembly, El Kumltai, Altai Republic, Commission on Ecology, 659700 Gono -Altaisk nl. Erkemena Palkina 1, Tel # +7 (38541) 3 23 00; Fax # +7 (3837) 99 91 05)

News on HIMNET

Internet Reaches Mount Everest

According to HIMNET (No. 28 (VI) - Sunday 7, April, 1996), the first-ever South African Team attempting to scale Mount Everest will have access to INTERNET. At base camp, at 18,000 ft, the South African Subsidiary of Apple Computer will sponsor a media tent housing a power Macintosh 8500 equipped with an INMARSAT Satellite uplink to transmit reports, photography, and video to the international press via the Internet. At camp 2 (22,000 ft) a Power Book 5300 ce will allow the team to download its digital photographs and video footage.

World's Highest Concert

According to HIMNET (No. 28, (VI) Sunday 7, April, 1996). Bulgarian musicians and

actors announced plans to organise the World's Highest Concert in April or May at 18,000 ft on Mount Everest.

News From ICIMOD

Meetings:

* Regional Workshop on Hydrology of the Hindu Kush-Himalayan Region (23-24 March, 1996).

Two representatives from each of the HKH countries and from UNESCO, Institute of Hydrology, UK, FRIEND Project GRDC, German IHP/OHP reviewed progress and decided to begin a FRIEND-Type Project in the HKH. FRIEND stands for Flow Regimes from International Experimental and Network Data. (Contact person at ICIMOD. Prof. Suresh R. Chalise, Mountain Natural Resources' Division).

* International Conference on Ecohydrology of High Mountain Areas (24-28 March, 1996).

150 Participants from over 30 countries throughout the world made presentations. Over 110 papers covering various aspects of Ecohydrology of High Mountain areas were presented. An Abstract Volume has been published and ICIMOD will assist in bringing out the proceedings. (Contact person at ICIMOD, Prof. Suresh R. Chalise: Mountain Natural Resources Division.)

Training

1. The first module of Integrated Training for Mountain Risk Engineering in the Himalayas - China Project, started in Yaan city on 11 March, 1996.

News in the Sichuan Daily on 22 March, 1996 ("Mountain God and Water God under Training" ICIMOD's Training Course starts in Yaan):

This training project in China is being implemented by Chengdu Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment with financial support from ICIMOD and the Commission of the European Union. The first module of the training course is arranged to train in - service officers from the 5 prefectures of Yaan, Lingshan, Dokou, Aba, and Gazhi in the mountain areas of Western Sichuan. The trainees will learn the basic knowledge and skills about investigation and assessment, designating control methods, implementation, and impact assessment of mountain hazards during 70 days of on -the - job training.

The Mountain Risk Engineering Training Programme is also being organised in Nepal where the focus is on the Training of Trainers and Capacity Building.

2. In May ICIMOD will also begin a 4-week Landslide Hazard Mitigation Training Programme for the HKH Region. Experts from Japan, India, China, and Nepal will be providing lectures. Trainees will be exposed to different methods being adapted in Nepal for managing Landslides.

Ongoing Research

Soil, Slopes and Sustainability: A number of activities continue to address the ever-increasing problems of soil erosion and soil fertility in mountain farming. The challenge has been to find alternative methods of cultivation acceptable to mountain farmers that are economically and environmentally sound. Current research work is focusing on:

- (a) the use of hedgerows for reducing soil erosion and increasing soil fertility,
- (b) comparing soil losses from different types of farming practices both traditional and modern, and
- (c) improving the quality of degraded common lands in order to reduce some pressure on farm lands. Field-level experiments are going on in Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan in collaboration with various national partners. For additional details write to the Head, Mountain Farming Systems' Division, ICIMOD.

New Book on State of the Mountains

State of The World's Mountains 1997

Work is underway to prepare the State of the World's Mountains 1997. If its predecessor volume focused on discussing specific mountain ranges of the World, this time the Volume will be issue oriented and will deal with Human Dimensions (culture, sacredness, health, conflicts, etc), Mountain Ecosystems, Resources and Development (water, energy, mining, biodiversity, tourism, forests, farming, risks, climate change, etc), and a Mountain Agenda for the 21st Century. (For further details write to Prof. Jack Ives, Division of Environmental Studies, University of California, Davis CA 95616 USA. Tel + 1 916 752 07 92, FAX + 1 916 752 95 92. email - jdives@ucdavis.edu).

Mountain World Heritage*

Mountains continue to be attractive features for World Heritage listings and, for 1996, the following sites have been nominated: Mount Saraksan (Korea), Lapponian (Sweden), Mount Emei (China), Mount Lushan (China), Mount Perdu (France/Spain), Kamchatka (Russia), Sources of the Great Ob (Russia), Uvs-Nuur-Hollow (Russia/Mongolia), and Lake Baikal (Russia). For further information please contact IUCN headquarters in Gland (fax 41 22 999 0015; email - jwt@hq.iucn.ch).

Upcoming Meetings of Potential Interest*

From Mount Pindos to Olympus, April 5-8 in Trikala, Greece

The Greek section of the International Association of Mountain Wilderness is organising this congress which will focus on the eco-development and protection of these two famous mountains and the corridor between them through a series of linked natural parks and other protected areas. The sacred aspects will be prominent and network member Edwin (Sacred Mountains of the World) Bernbaum will be the featured speaker, presenting near the home of the gods of Ancient Greece. Time is short, but participation is still open. Contact the General Secretary Kostas Tsipiras, Tel/Fax 1 32 43 782 or P.O. Box. 30736 Athens, Greece 10033.

Pan-European Conference on Transboundary Parks, June 26-30

This Conference will take place on both sides of the Czech-German Frontier, in the Elbe Sandstone area (Bohemian-Saxonian "Switzerland"). The principal sponsor is IUCN partner Foundation ECOPOINT, and it is being organised by Jan Cerovsky, the Executive President of ECOPOINT, at Kalisnicka 4, 13000 Prague, Czech Republic; Fax 42 2 27 24 60.

CNPPA (EA-2), June 30 - July 5, in Kushiro, Japan

The Second Conference on National Parks and Protected Areas of East Asia is coming up.

Conference Secretariat: c/o InterGroup Corp., 7-5-17 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107 Japan; fax 81 3 55 70 61 50.

Mountain Corridor Workshop at IUCN World Conservation Congress, October 10-23, Montreal, Canada.

During the Congress there will be workshop sessions on October 17,18, 20 and 21.

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan Mountain Research Conference, October 14-18

Sponsored by the AAAS and the International University of Kyrgyzstan. Abstracts are to be submitted by May 1 to Dr. Elizabeth Kirk, Director, Europe and Countries of the Former Soviet Union Project, AAAS, 1333 H Street NW, Washington DC 20005. Limited travel funds available?

*From Mountain Protected Areas Update - (Lawrence S. Hamilton and Linda S. Hamilton, Islands and Highlands, Environmental Consultancy, RR # 3, Box. 3010 Charlotte, Vermont 05445, USA. Telephone/FAX No. 802 425 6509; email no. hamilton@ together.org. (contd...)

MOUNTAINS OF ASIA

(In each issue of APMN Bulletin we plan to Highlight One Major Mountain Range in Asia)

Karakoram Mountains

The Karakoram mountain range occupies a pivotal position in the Himalayan arc system bordering the Indo- Pakistan subcontinent in the north. It is located on the North-western margin of the Himalayas and forms a connecting link with the Hindu Kush and the Pamirs. The Pamirs complex forms the connecting link between the Hindu Kush, the Karakoram, the Kun Lun, the Tian Shan and the Trans Altai ranges.

The Karakoram (Turkish for Black Mountains) is one of the most heavily glaciated regions outside the poles. It has 12 out of the 30 highest mountains in the world, including K2 which is the second highest. It represents one of the most highly seismic zones in the world. The area has been known to travellers on the Silk Route since the 2nd century B.C., the hostility of the tribes notwithstanding. The Silk Route was a series of trade routes linking China with the West.

A major development in recent decades has been the Karakoram Highway which runs for 753km from Havelian (in Hazara) to the Khunjerab Pass on the Chinese Border. Completed in 1979, it took 20 years to build and it opened the northern areas of Pakistan, particularly Gilgit and Hunza, boosting the local economies through tourism and the development of high-value crops.

Major Mountains of Asia

Turkey (West Asia) Pakistan(Hindu Kush-Himalayas) Tadzikstan(Central Asia)

Boz Daglari	Karakoram	Turkestanski Chrebet
Taurus	Hind Kush	Zeravsanskij Chrebet
Ilgaz Daglari	Himalayas	Alajskij Chrebet
Nur Daglari	Makran and Kirthar Range	Pamir Plateau
Zigana Daglari	Sulaimen Range	
Tatos Daglari		
Sason Daglari		
Japan(NorthEast Asia)	Asiatic Russia (North Asia)	New Zealand (Australasia)
Kyushsu Sanchi	Caucasus,Karatau,Ural,	Ruahine Range
Shikoku Sanchi	Sayan,Stanovoy,	Hauhunga Roa Range
Chugoku Sanchi	Yabionoyy,Verkhoyanskiy,	Huiarau Range
Kiso Sammyaki	Dzhungdzhur,Altai,	Kaimai Range
Ou Sammyaki	Kamchatka,Cerskogo,	Southern Alps
Hida Sammyaki	Ekiatapskij,Bureniskij	Cameron,Richardson
Hidaka Sammyaki		Garvia,Spencer,
Kitama Sammyaki		Tasman
Kitama Sanchi		
Ishikari Sanchi		

**Encyclopedia Britannica: Britannica Atlas 1984; Times Books: The Times Concise Atlas of the World, 1986.*

NETWORKING AND NETWORKS

Other Networks in Asia

There are many Asia-Pacific based Networks, Newsletters, and Associations of interest to Mountain Development Agencies. It is hoped that in the future other Asia-Pacific Networks and Associations will begin taking greater interest in hitherto neglected mountain areas of Asia. For those Mountain Development Agencies interested in establishing contacts, some of the Networks and Groups are listed below.

- Asia Pacific Nature Agriculture Network (APNAN Headquarters, 802, KurBarb Apartment, 29 Phaholyothin Road, Soi 14, Bangkok, Thailand 104000. Tel. & Fax. No. (66) -2 272 7061
- Asian Farming Systems' Association (Dr. Virginia R. Cardenas, Secretary/ Treasurer, Asian Farming Systems' Association, Dept. of Agricultural Education and Rural Studies, University of the Philippines Los Banos, College 4031, Laguna, Philippines.
- Asian Watershed Management Network (Asian Watmanet) is a regional network for people's participation in watershed management in Asia. It is sponsored by the Watershed Management in the Tropics and Upper Himalayas (WMTUH) subprogramme/Farm Programme (RAS/93/063) of the UNDP/FAO, headquartered at the Dept. of Soil Conservation, MFSC/HMG, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal.
- CONTOUR Newsletter of the Asia Soil Conservation Network ASOCON Manggala Wanabakti, Block IV, Lt. 8, J1 Gatot Subroto, P.O. Box. 133 JKWB, Jakarta 10270, Indonesia. Tel # 62 21 5703246, 5703265, FAX # 62 21 5700263.
- Regional Wood Energy News, Regional Wood Energy Development Programme in Asia (GCP/RAS154/Net). FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Maliwan Mansion, Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 10200 Thailand, FAX # 66 2 280 0760 Email rwedp@ksc.net.th

- Asia - Pacific Community Forestry Newsletter. Regional Community Forestry Training Centre (RECOFTC). Dr. Somsak Sukwang, Director RECOFTC, Kasetsart University, P.Box. 1111, Bangkok, 10903 Thailand, FAX # 662 561 4880, Email ftcss@nontri.ku.ac.th. Tel # 662 579 0108, 561 - 4881

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